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LESSONS LEARNED DURING A COASTAL SAGE SCRUB RESTORATION PROJECT

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13. ABSTRACT *(Maximum 200 words)*

A 2,023 m² steep slope was cut in 1980 at Submarine Base San Diego, CA, to create a parking lot. The soils have a high sand content and erode easily. In July 1990, erosion control by restoration of the native coastal sage scrub community began. Hoeing broke the soil crust; an irrigation system was built; and *Artemisia californica, Eriogonum, fasciculatum, Lotus scoparius, Salvia mellifera,* and *Plantago insularis* were hand seeded by 21 July. One gal. container plants were also placed in two locations. The site was watered all day, 3 – 5 days/wk, for the first 5 weeks; then watering was cut back to about 8 hrs per week. Overhead irrigation proved successful; drip created rills. In the 10 years since being created, the unassisted slope had developed a native plant community of *A. californica* (0.008/m²), *E. fasciculatum* (0.071/m²), *L. scoparius* (0.017/m²), and *S. mellifera* (0.002/m²). Three months after seeding, the frequency of *A. californica* had increased to: 11.5/m², *L. scoparius* to 0.5/m², and *S. mellifera* to 2.7/m². *E. fasciculatum* is not expected to appear until spring 1991. Seeding late during summer and irrigating successfully germinated plants. However, the number of plants was low, and probably is due to: 1) inadequate soil preparation; 2) sterile subsoil, 3) little nearby native vegetation for propagules; 3) no weed control, with irrigation weeds crowded out new seedlings in better soil; and 4) sand-clay flow.

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LESSONS LEARNED DURING A COASTAL SAGE SCRUB RESTORATION PROJECT. Mary F. Platter-Rieger. Code 522, Naval Ocean Systems Center, San Diego, CA 92152-5000, PH (619)553-2777.

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